



NORTHEAST IDAHO

BONNEVILLE, BUTTE, CLARK, CUSTER, FREMONT, JEFFERSON, LEMHI, MADISON, & TETON COUNTIES

LABOR FORCE & EMPLOYMENT

A monthly decrease was seen in the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Bonneville Labor Market Area (LMA) consisting of Bingham, Bonneville, Butte, and Jefferson counties. May's rate of 3.3 percent is two-tenths of a percentage point lower than the previous month and five-tenths of a percentage point lower than the May 2000 rate. The LMA is 1.5 percentage points lower than the state's rate of 4.8 percent and 1.1 percentage points lower than the national rate of 4.4 percent.

The *Civilian Labor Force* showed an increase of 370 people over the month with the economy holding steady, yet somewhat in limbo, while awaiting lay-offs at the INEEL. An increase in the need for construction workers, garden and building supply workers, and recreation workers, along with the addition of many students during the summer months, has helped the labor force to grow. The yearly growth in the *Civilian Labor Force* was slightly over 3,000 people, with the largest percentage increase (1,940 people) from Bonneville County.

Bonneville County held the lowest unemployment rate in the Bonneville LMA at 3.1 percent in May, followed by Jefferson, Butte, and Bingham counties at 3.3, 3.4, and 3.9 percent, respectively. Idaho Falls, the largest city in the LMA, decreased two-tenths of a percentage point over the month to 3.2 percent and three-tenths of a percentage point from May 2000.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (a count of jobs by place of work) increased by almost 1,000 over the month, for a total of 63,890 jobs in the LMA. *Goods-Producing Industries* and *Service-Producing Industries* both increased over the month. The largest numerical increase was seen in *Construction (Special Trade)*, adding an additional 340 jobs as building goes into full swing. An increase of 230

Northeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Bonneville, Bingham, Butte, & Jefferson counties

	May 2001*	Apr 2001	May 2000	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	82,790	82,420	79,540	0.4	4.1
Unemployment	2,760	2,910	3,010	-5.2	-8.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.3%	3.5%	3.8%		
Total Employment	80,020	79,510	76,530	0.6	4.6
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	82,960	81,650	79,630	1.6	4.2
Unemployment	2,300	2,570	2,500	-10.5	-8.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.8%	3.1%	3.1%		
Total Employment	80,660	79,080	77,130	2.0	4.6
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	63,890	62,950	62,570	1.5	2.1
Goods-Producing Industries	9,530	9,160	9,320	4.0	2.3
Mining & Construction	4,330	3,990	4,080	8.5	6.1
Manufacturing	5,200	5,170	5,240	0.6	-0.8
Food Processing	2,660	2,690	2,790	-1.1	-4.7
Ind. & Com. Mach. & Computer Equip.	440	430	540	2.3	-18.5
All Other Manufacturing	2,100	2,050	1,910	2.4	9.9
Service-Producing Industries	54,360	53,790	53,250	1.1	2.1
Transportation, Comm., & Utilities	2,270	2,220	2,340	2.3	-3.0
Wholesale Trade	6,200	6,170	6,270	0.5	-1.1
Retail Trade	11,500	11,360	11,450	1.2	0.4
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,920	1,910	1,890	0.5	1.6
Services	21,610	21,450	20,660	0.7	4.6
Government Administration	5,460	5,230	5,190	4.4	5.2
Government Education	5,400	5,450	5,450	-0.9	-0.9
*Preliminary Estimate					
**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month					

jobs was seen in *Government Administration* as seasonal facilities open and youth become available for many of these jobs. *Retail Trade* also added 140 jobs, mostly from *Food Stores* and *Building Materials & Garden Supplies*. *Government Education* was the only major industry to experience a loss (50 jobs). *Food Processing* did experience a loss of 30 jobs, but its major industry category, *Manufacturing*, showed an overall increase of 30.

A year-over-year comparison shows that *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased by 1,320 jobs. *Goods-Producing Industries* increased by 210 with *Construction* being the growth variable (increase of 250 jobs). Overall losses in *Manufacturing* (40 jobs) stemmed from losses in both *Food Processing* and *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment* and an increase in *All Other Manufacturing*. *Service-Producing Industries* showed an overall increase of 1,110 jobs, with *Services* showing an increase of 950. *Business Services* showed the largest growth at over 200 jobs. *Engineering & Management*, *Health Services (non-hospital)*, and *Social Services* were the other contributing segments. Losses were noted in *Transportation, Communication & Utilities (Communications)*, *Wholesale Trade (Durables)*, and *Government Administration*.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Bonneville County

- CEO and president of Melaleuca, Inc., Frank Vander-sloot, was recently named Entrepreneur of the Year for the Northwest United States. Sponsored by Ernst & Young and so-sponsored by CNN, USA Today, NASDAQ, and the Kauffman Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership, the award honors entrepreneurs who created and sustained successful and growing business ventures. Melaleuca was started in 1985 and uses a consumer direct marketing plan to distribute cleaning, health and beauty products worldwide. Its most recent growth takes it into Australia this fall. Melaleuca also sponsors the Melaleuca Freedom Celebration in Idaho Falls for the Fourth of July, the largest fireworks display West of the Mississippi for 2000. This year was even bigger, as it was Melaleuca's tenth anniversary of giving Eastern Idaho a great show!
- The Trackside Mall opened in June in Idaho Falls. The mall is located on Poulson Street, and will add vendors as each floor is made ready. The first floor is now open and two more will follow, hoping to house 150 to 200 vendors when the whole mall is completed. The mall features antiques, crafts and collectibles. The owners, Joe and Barbara Riggins, have been working on this project since 1999 and have spent \$250,000 for remodeling.
- Idaho Falls is receiving another Subway to bring the number to four in the city. The new building will look like the newest one on Broadway Street and will be run by Bonneville Foods, Inc., the same company that owns the other three in Idaho Falls and one in Pocatello. This new Subway is currently under construction at Channing Way next to Holiday Inn Express.
- Shoup and B Streets will have a new occupant July 10. The old Montgomery Ward building will house the Grand Victorian Wedding Chapel and Reception Parlor. It will cater to all types of weddings and the décor will be Victorian. The chapel is 5,700-square feet and will be operated by Tory and Dave Kirby. Tory has operated a portable wedding service for eight years and has been a wedding consultant for 15 years.
- The Quilted Daisy, a store that sells fabric, supplies, and books to quilters, recently moved to 275 Cliff Street, just down from Mi Casa. The store was previously located on Park Street, but needed more room to expand. Square footage and parking have expanded and classes can now be offered on the main floor. The store is also a Bernina sewing machine dealer.
- The new 30-bed ER renovation at Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center is now open. The hospital found that the old ER was not capable of handling the 36,000 visits it received last year in the manner it desired to treat its customers. ER visits are on the rise locally and nationally. The new ER can separate the non-urgent cases with the trauma and true emergency cases, hopefully minimizing the time someone spends in a visit. The hospital treats major trauma cases within a 250-mile radius. Besides increasing the number of beds available, the renovated ER has its own scan and X-ray

machines, a central monitoring system, and a pneumatic tube system to transport lab orders and samples and prescriptions to and from the ER.

Clark, Fremont, Jefferson, and Madison Counties

- The Riot Zone opened in Rigby (Jefferson County) in mid-June. It offers an 18-hole miniature golf course, go-Kart tracks, pedal cars for two or four riders, and a Buckaroo. The Riot Zone is also working on a covered picnic area to accommodate up to 75 people for reunions or gatherings. It is open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 10 a.m. to midnight Fridays and Saturdays. It is located on the north end of Rigby just off Highway 20 (going towards Rigby Lake) and can be contacted at 390-3401.
- ML Technologies has announced the opening of a call center in St. Anthony (Fremont County) to go along with its office of human resources, accounting, graphic design, and technical publications in the city. Although the company is based in Idaho Falls, it has offices in St. Anthony, Boise, Salt Lake City, Denver, Washington D.C., and Washington State. The company is a full-service information technology provider and contracts with federal agencies and the private sector. The call center should be functional by September 1 and could employ up to 125 positions within two years. It will be located in the old Ben Franklin store that is being renovated on Bridge Street.
- The High Plains Moto Club opened in Rexburg (Madison County). It is owned by brothers, Travis and Tim Frandsen, who have been racing motorcycles for many years and decided to turn their hobby into something the area could enjoy. The track sits on 10 acres and consists of 10 jumps and three whoop sections. The brothers have already hosted one East Idaho Motorcycle Association (EIMA) race and have the next one scheduled for August 4. Call for details. The track is available to those interested for \$10 a day Monday through Friday after 4 p.m. and Saturday all day. It is encouraged that you call ahead (356-0806) to assure the track is not being groomed; the track could even be open earlier on some weekdays. The location is just south of 1268 South 2000 West (south Rexburg exit, then head west and look to your right).
- Clark, Fremont, Lemhi, and Custer counties received grants for economic development strategists. Clark and Fremont counties will share a \$45,000 grant from the Idaho Department of Commerce, as will Custer and Lemhi counties. The money will be used to hire strategists to work with area leaders and businesses to create business plans, figure and manage budgets, and encourage economic expansion in rural Idaho. The grants come from the \$500,000 awarded by the Idaho Legislature as part of Governor Kempthorne's rural development initiative.

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